NOTE XXV.

ON A HERMAPHRODITICAL SPECIMEN OF PHASIANUS COLCHICUS

BY

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A few days ago I had the chance to examine a peculiarly colored Pheasant, which after dissection proved to be a hermaphrodite, having a feebly though distinctly developed testicle on the left, and an ovary on the right side. The exterior of the bird shows a curious mixture of the plumage of male and female. Head and neck resemble more the female than the male, but are strongly banded across with metallic green, the surroundings of the eyes are nearly entirely feathered and the red, naked parts much reduced, the two bunches of lengthened feathers on the sides of the hind-head absent, but replaced by a great number of lengthened feathers on the hind neck; the neck is separated all round from the body by a feebly developed collar like is the case in the female. Mantle, chest and further lower parts glossy chestnut like in the male but without the steelblue terminal edgings to the feathers, the black spot on the centre of the breast much smaller than in the male, back and further upper parts like in the female, but with a somewhat reddish tinge. In size the bird resembles the male; spur wanting. The specimen has been shot at Bloemendaal near Haarlem, on November 28th; it is in possession of Mr. van den Berg at the Hague.

Leyden Museum, December 1896.